Applicant: Gregory Ehlers
Serial No.: 10/674,621
Group Art Unit: 2636

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims having the same number as indicated:

1. (Previously Amended). A system, comprising:

a controller, responsive to an operator, for controlling operation of one of a machine or process;

a control point coupled to the controller and being located with respect to the one of a machine and process; and,

a remote node located with respect to the operator of the one of a machine and process for detecting a predetermined condition of the operator and automatically delivering a fault signal to the control point through a wireless communications channel in response to detecting the predetermined condition of the operator, the controller for controlling operation of the one of the machine or process as a function of the presence or absence of the fault signal.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the controller generates an alarm in response to the signal.

4. (Currently Amended). A system, as set forth in claim 1[2], the control point for detecting a presence of the remote node.

5. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 4, the predetermined condition being an absence of the remote node.

6. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 5, where the absence of the remote node is defined by a predetermined distance.

7. (Original).A system, as set forth in claim 6, where the predetermined distance is programmable.

8. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 4, the predetermined condition being the presence of the remote node.

9. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the controller allows the one of a machine and process to be started in response to receiving the signal.

10. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 8, further comprising a second node located with respect to a second operator for detecting a predetermined condition of the second operator and responsively delivering a second signal to the control point through the wireless communication channel, the controller allowing the one of a machine and process to be started in response to receiving the second signal.

11. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is related to a health of the operator.

12. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is related to the consciousness of the operator.

13. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition is related to the attentiveness of the operator.

14. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the remote node is embodied in one of a watch, pager, mobile telephone, pendant, vest, and uniform.

15. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the remote node is embedded in a device worn or carried by the operator.

16. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 15, the device operative to remotely control the one of a machine or process.

17. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 15, the device for communicating with an external system, for monitoring a condition of the operator, and for reporting the condition to the external system.

18. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 17, the condition including at least one of a health indicator and a position.

19. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, where the remote node generates the signal at periodic times.

20. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the remote nodes generates the signal in response to receiving a request signal from the control point.

21. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 20, further comprising a position locating system coupled to the controller for determining a position of the one of a machine and process when the signal is received.

22. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 21, wherein the controller generates a position signal in response to the determined position.

23. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a position locating system for determining a position of the operator.

24. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 23, the controller for generating an alarm in response to the signal, the alarm including the position of the operator.

25. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a position locating system for determining a position of the remote node.

26. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 23, the controller for generating an alarm in response to the signal, the alarm including the position of the remote node.

27. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 21, wherein the position locating system includes a device worn by the operator.

28. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, the remote nodes communicating with an external system.

29. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 28, the external system comprising at least one of a monitoring system and reporting system.

30. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, the remote node for detecting a predetermined condition of a second operator and responsively delivering a second signal to the control point through the wireless communications channel.

31. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a second remote node located with respect to one of the operator and a second operator, for detecting a predetermined condition of the one of the operator and a second operator and responsively delivering a second signal to the control point through the wireless communications channel.

32. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, the control point being embodied in a recovery beacon.

33. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 32, the system being utilized in a marine application, the recovery beacon being floatable.

34. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 32, the recovery beacon being one of a floatable beacon, a life boat beacon or a raft beacon.

35. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 32, further comprising a position locating system for determining a position of one of the remote node and the operator, the remote node for transmitting the position to the recovery beacon, the recovery beacon for storing a last known position as a function of the transmitted position.

36. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 35, the recovery beacon for broadcasting the last known position.

37. (Original). A system, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a second node located with respect to a second operator for detecting a predetermined condition of the second operator and responsively delivering a second signal to the control point through the wireless communication channel.

38. (Previously Presented). A system for controlling operation of one of a machine and process, comprising:

a control point located with respect to the one of a machine and process; and,

a remote node located with respect to an operator of the one of a machine and process for detecting a predetermined condition of the operator and responsively delivering a fault signal to the control point through a wireless communications channel, wherein the predetermined condition is one of a health of the operator, consciousness of the operation, and attentiveness of the operator.